

Appl. No. 10/824,790
Amdt. Dated 01/28/05
Reply to Office Action of 10/29/04

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant would like to thank the examiner for the thorough review of the present application. Applicant agrees with the examiner that claims 1-4, 6, 8-10 would be allowable subject matter if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 set forth in the Office Action. The applicant further agrees with the examiner that the trademark VELCRO should be capitalized and accompanied by generic terminology. Applicant respectfully requests that all references to the trademark "Velcro" in the specification be corrected by examiner's amendment. The applicant further agrees with the examiner that the corresponding structure of the "mast maintaining mechanism" is the halyard, cleat, and VELCRO member, or hook and loop fastener, as currently amended.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to change "said stern" to "said stern section" and "said traveler bar" to "said bar." Claim 2 has been amended to change "said mast maintaining means" to "said mast section maintaining means" and "hosting" to "hoisting." Claim 9 has been amended to change "hosting" to "hoisting." Claim 3 has been amended to change "said mast maintaining means" to "said mast section maintaining means." Claims 3 and 10 have been amended to depend on claims 2 and 9, respectively.

The examiner has rejected claims 5, 7, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, as failing to comply with the enabling requirement. Accordingly, claims 5 and 11 have been canceled and claims 7 and 13 have been amended to delete the recitation regarding "said youloh." In addition, claims 3 and 10 have been amended to recite a "hook and loop fastener" instead of a "Velcro member."

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the original claims should be considered as no longer tenable with respect to the currently amended claims. All pending dependent claims necessarily include the recitations of their independent claims and therefore are also in condition for allowance.

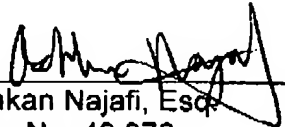
Should the examiner consider necessary or desirable to make formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by examiner's Amendment, if the examiner feels this would

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facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively, should the examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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